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Who killed Malcolm X and why?

By Stephen Millies

“And we will know him then for what he was and is — a prince — our own Black shining prince! — who didn’t hesitate to die, because he loved us so.” That was how the legendary actor Ossie Davis ended his eulogy at Malcolm X’s funeral.

Over a half-century later, two of the convicted assassins of Malcolm X, Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam, were exonerated on Nov. 18. They were framed in a 1966 show trial.

Justice delayed is justice denied. Muhammad Aziz, now 83 years old, spent 20 years in prison, while Khalil Islam served 22 years.

Both Black men survived years in solitary confinement. Khalil Islam, who died in 2009, never got to see his name cleared.

Muhammad Aziz, then known as Norman 3X Butler, and Khalil Islam, then known as Thomas 15X Johnson, were convicted with Mujahid Abdul Halim. Then known as Talmadge Hayer or Thomas Hagan, Halim confessed during the trial to killing Malcolm X but said his two co-defendants were innocent.

That didn’t matter to the police and the courts. All three defendants were convicted and given life sentences by Judge Charles Marks.

The police were so disinterested in finding out who killed Malcolm X that they even didn’t close off the crime scene. A dance was allowed to be held the evening of the assassination at the Audubon Ballroom with Malcolm’s blood still on the stage.

All of the physical evidence, including a sawed-off shotgun that was one of the weapons used to murder Malcolm X, has disappeared.

Judge Marks turned down a defense motion to reveal the police interviews with a hundred eyewitnesses. Why?

When Halim gave the names of four people who were his fellow assassins in two affidavits in 1977 and 1978, Judge Harold Rothwax refused to reopen the case. New York police and the FBI didn’t investigate.

Both Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam had strong alibis. Aziz was at home suffering from thrombophlebitis in his right leg. Islam was also at his home when Malcolm X was killed, as confirmed by a neighbor who visited him.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. apologized for the convictions of the two men. So why doesn’t Vance announce an investigation into who assisted Mujahid Abdul Halim in murdering Malcolm X?

Vance refused to prosecute Dominique Strauss-Kahn, then head of the International Monetary Fund, for raping the Black hotel worker Nafissatou Diallo. The DA is the son of former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who was a top Pentagon official during the dirty war against Vietnam and Laos.

FBI war against Black people

Black leaders have been targeted by the U.S. Government for over a century. The army considered Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to be a threat. FBI Director J. Ed-



Malcolm X speaking in Harlem in New York City on June 29, 1963. J. Edgar Hoover sent a telegram to the New York FBI office on June 6, 1964, demanding that they “do something about Malcolm X.”

gar Hoover wanted him dead.

Dr. King denounced the war against Vietnam. He declared at New York’s Riverside Church that “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today (is) my own government.”

Exactly one year later, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968. The same day, eight Green Berets were in Memphis.

During World War I, the Military Intelligence Division investigated one of Dr. King’s grandfathers for “subversive activity” because he gave a sermon against lynching.

The FBI had the Nation of Islam under surveillance since the early 1940s. During World War II, NOI leader Elijah Muhammad was sent to prison for four years on charges of urging his followers not to register for the draft.

The U.S. armed forces were then completely segregated. So was its blood supply, a Nazi-like practice.

In response, the Pittsburgh Courier started a “Double V” campaign, calling for victory over the Hitlers at home and abroad. Other Black newspapers joined the campaign and exposed racism inside and outside the military. With the support of President Franklin Roosevelt, J. Edgar Hoover wanted the Black newspaper publishers tried for treason.

During the anti-communist witch hunt after the war, the FBI tried to destroy every progressive organization in the country. Hoover launched COINTELPRO, short for counterintelligence program. It sought to provoke dissension within groups and between organizations.

Along with the Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party, COINTELPRO targeted Black activist groups. These included the Southern Christian Leadership Conference led by Dr. King, the Nation of Islam and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, known as SNCC.

COINTELPRO later waged a war of extermination against the Black Panther Party. As shown in the film “Judas and the Black Messiah,” the FBI planted its informant William O’Neal within the Illinois Black Panther Party. O’Neal

was crucial to Chicago police murdering Illinois chapter chairman Fred Hampton and fellow Panther member Mark Clark on Dec. 4, 1969.

J. Edgar Hoover sent a telegram to the New York City FBI office on June 6, 1964, demanding that they “do something about Malcolm X.” Eight-and-a-half months later the Black shining prince was murdered in front of his family and an audience of 400.

Letting Malcolm X be murdered

Malcolm X was assassinated in the Audubon Ballroom on Feb. 21, 1965. Now called the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, it’s located in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan.

A week before, on Feb. 14, the home of Malcolm X and his family — at 23-11 97th St. in the East Elmhurst section of Queens — was firebombed. The police refused to investigate. They planted a bottle filled with gasoline in the house, implying Malcolm set the fire himself.

There were always at least a half-dozen cops in front of any place where Malcolm X spoke in order to try to intimidate people. Yet a week after Malcolm and his family were nearly killed, there was just one cop stationed at the Audubon Ballroom’s entrance. Other police were kept hidden nearby.

The well-known journalist Jimmy Breslin got a tip from the police that he should go to the meeting at the Audubon Ballroom. Did the NYPD know what was going to happen?

Cyrus Vance said, “that on orders from director J. Edgar Hoover himself, the FBI ordered multiple witnesses not to tell police or prosecutors that they were in fact FBI informants.” In addition there were undercover cops in the audience belonging to the Bureau of Special Services (BOSS), the NYPD’s Red Squad.

Several people shot at Malcolm. None of the dozen or so FBI agents and police inside the ballroom did anything to try to prevent the assassination. Nor were they responsible for arresting Talmadge

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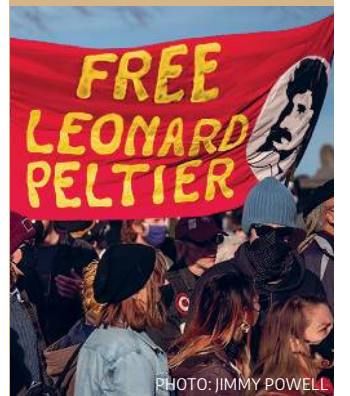
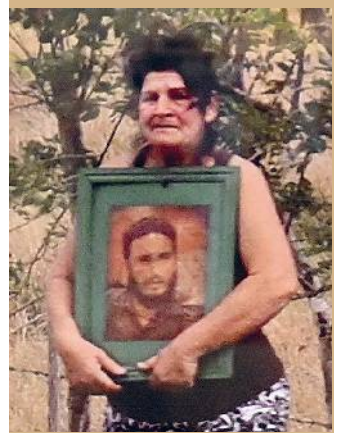


PHOTO: JIMMY POWELL

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Climate change and the Global South

By Scott Scheffer

More than two weeks have passed since the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow closed. In the days leading up to the conference there was anticipation – maybe even hope – that in light of the disastrous weather events that hit the U.S. and Europe in 2021, real plans might be concretized, the rich capitalist countries might be held accountable for their assault on our planet’s atmosphere, and the vast riches they have stolen from the rest of the world through a century of military brutality and economic sabotage might be used to begin healing the planet.

Instead, the deliberations were steered by Big Capital, voices from the Global South were largely absent and profits were favored. The World Petroleum Council and the World Coal Council, big bankers, insurance executives, pension funds, the head of NATO and other imperialist military brass, all worked to ensure that nothing would impede the flow of profits.

Outside the halls, amid the massive protests, the names of more than 1,000 environmental activists who have been murdered in recent years were projected on an outdoor screen. They included Berta Cáceres of the Lenca people in Honduras.

Indigenous people from the Americas and other protesters from Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Brazil and the Philippines chanted, marched and held signs demanding climate action, and denouncing the racist exclusion of people from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia.

In a Nov. 8 article in *The Independent*, Diane Abbott, the first Black woman to serve in the British Parliament, wrote about the COP26 conference: “... thousands who intended to travel from poorer countries were excluded. A hostile environment from the Home Office to those travelling from countries in the Global South (especially those from Africa), high costs of accommodation and a failure to deliver on a pledge to offer COVID vaccines to all delegates has excluded many of those who face the worst of the climate crisis every day.”

Dipti Bhatnagar from Mozambique, a co-coordinator of Friends of the Earth International, wasn’t able to attend because the “chaotic and last minute nature of plans to help support participation from overseas are too little and too late for many delegates from Global South countries.” Mozambique is listed as the seventh most affected by extreme weather on the Global Climate Risk Index for 2021.

Ita Mendoza of Futuros Indígenas, an environmental collective from Mexico that spent months crowdfunding to be able to attend COP26, was unable to successfully navigate the bureaucracy to be accredited for the full length of the conference.

Most affected, most excluded

The Global South being excluded from the discourse and from international negotiations isn’t new. Reports by climate change scientists from populations worst hit by global warming have been excluded from important science journals for years.

A study by Carbon Brief, an environmental website, found that 90% of the most cited climate change research papers between 2016 and 2020 were from North America, Europe or Australia.

Rising sea levels threaten island nations and others whose low elevation and long coastal borders make them susceptible to flooding.

In Bangladesh, farmers are trying different methods to deal with the problems of high salinity in streams and soil that is killing crops. The outlook is bleak, as scientists predict that 17% of their land will be submerged by 2050 and 20 million people will be uprooted.

Senegal has lost up to a kilometer of shoreline. Villages have been washed away in minutes, huge swaths of farmland lost, many are homeless and thousands of coastal residents have had to be moved to temporary camps further inland.

Together, the West African countries of Benin, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Togo lost \$3.8 billion in 2017. Floods, air and water pollution have caused an average of 13,000 deaths a year for several years running.



Indigenous protesters at the COP26 conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

Many West Africans are risking everything to cross the English Channel into Europe.

It isn’t only geography that makes the Global South more vulnerable. The bigger factor is the deep and widespread poverty caused by more than a century of pillage by imperialism.

One of the promises made at an international climate conference in 2009 was that the rich capitalist countries would provide \$100 billion per year to the Global South by 2020 to help them adapt and combat climate change. So far, the highest amount pledged was \$80 billion in 2019, and the U.N. reported that funding for 2020 would fall far short of the goal.

Oxfam has pointed out that much of what’s pledged is in the form of loans. Actual grants are far less than what is being reported.

Shamefully, the per-capita worst polluter in the world — the U.S. — provided less than \$8 billion of the total for 2018 and 2019.

Mitigation over adaptation

Further, the imperialist countries dictate what the money being provided will be used for, with little input from climate scientists in the recipient countries. The giant energy monopolies and the banks that invest in them favor what is called mitigation over adaptation.

The immediate need in the Global South is adaptation – efforts to protect the population from cyclones, tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding and drought. These countries need funds to build seawalls, help relocate those displaced by disasters, transport food and water and develop alternative industries to deal with unemployment caused by climate change.

But the banks and energy giants push what is called mitigation in

global warming parlance. They want carbon capture devices, and wind, solar and nuclear power, in regions whose greenhouse gases are only a small portion of the global problem.

At least half of the accumulated CO2 in the atmosphere is from the U.S. and Britain, where global manufacturing was centered for 150 years. The projects being pushed by the U.S. and others will be profitable enterprises for engineering firms in the Global North countries and do little to lower global greenhouse gas emissions.

Impoverished countries have been demanding more since the early 1990s, when small island nations first raised the demand for a mechanism to compensate them for destruction that was already evident from climate change. The U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan and Australia have resisted since that time.

By the time of COP26, the demand became a proposal for a guaranteed fund for recovery and rebuilding as well as technical support. The proposal was intended to be in addition to the pledge of \$100 billion per year, which many climatologists consider grossly inadequate even if it were lived up to. Many economists believe that by 2050, financial damage from climate change could be 20% of the gross domestic product for nations in the Global South.

At COP26, Scotland offered the first ever commitment from an industrialized country. But the U.S. and Europe blocked the effort. Scotland’s gesture drew praise from Saleemul Huq of Bangladesh, an advisor to the Climate Vulnerable Forum group of 48 countries. He remarked “The U.S. is giving us zero dollars. Europe is giving us zero euros.”

Even in the U.S. and Europe, hundreds of lives have been lost to climate change just in the last few years. Entire towns and villages have been destroyed. Global warming is a huge crisis and an enormous challenge. But it can be solved.

The obstacle isn’t a scientific one. The disappointing outcome of COP26 in Glasgow shows that the profit system has to be eliminated in order to end global warming and literally save the planet. 🌍

Who killed Malcolm X and why?

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Hayer (Mujahid Abdul Halim), the sole killer who was apprehended.

Hayer was wounded by Reuben Francis, an aide to Malcolm X, and then seized by members of the audience. The cop at the door and two officers who were driving by in a squad car arrested Hayer.

The first edition of the old New York Herald Tribune carried Jimmy Breslin’s article that stated two suspects were arrested. The “two suspects” were changed to one suspect in later editions of the Tribune and other New York City newspapers.

Who was this second suspect and why did the media and police have him disappear? (“The Assassination of Malcolm X” by George Breitman, Herman Porter and Baxter Smith)

Among the BOSS operatives present was Detective Gene Roberts, who wormed his way into Malcolm’s security detail. Roberts can be seen

in pictures next to the mortally wounded Malcolm X, whose head was cradled by Asian American activist Yuri Kochiyama.

“Brother Gene” later infiltrated the Black Panther Party. He gave lying testimony in the attempted frame-up of the Panther 21. One of the defendants was Afeni Shakur, the mother of Tupac Shakur.

It took the jury two hours to acquit the Panthers of attempting to bomb department stores and the Bronx Zoo. As fantastic as these charges were, they’re not much different from the allegations used to jail Arabs and Muslims after 9/11.

Prosecutor Chris Christie used his frame-up of the Fort Dix 5 to become New Jersey governor.

‘Too much power’

The capitalist media has always insisted the murder of Malcolm X was the result of differences between

himself and Elijah Muhammad. Malcolm X left the NOI in March 1964.

What the media never mentions is that the FBI and local police departments were trying to destroy the Nation of Islam. Tens of thousands of Black people belonged to the NOI.

Los Angeles police attacked Mosque No. 27 on April 27, 1962. Mosque secretary Ronald X Stokes was shot in the heart and killed. Six other NOI members were wounded, including William X Rogers, who was left paralyzed. Like Kyle Rittenhouse, the police claimed “self-defense.”

Malcolm X came to Los Angeles and gave a eulogy for his friend Ronald X Stokes. Two thousand people attended the funeral. The atrocity was one of the sparks that led to the 1965 Watts rebellion.

New York police never forgave Malcolm X for 2,600 NOI members surrounding the 28th precinct in Harlem on an April night in 1957.

They were demanding justice for Hinton Johnson, who was clubbed viciously by police.

The police were forced to send Johnson to Harlem Hospital. Upon Malcolm’s signal, the thousands of Muslims and their supporters dispersed.

A police officer told Amsterdam News editor James Hicks that “this was too much power for one man to have,” referring to Malcolm X. “He meant one Black man,” said Hicks. (“The Death and Life of Malcolm X” by Peter Goldman.)

That cop’s real employer — the super rich — felt the same way. Wall Street didn’t appreciate Malcolm X supporting Local 1199’s union organizing drive among New York City hospital workers.

And they sure didn’t like him saying “show me a capitalist and I’ll show you a bloodsucker.” The Black revolutionary declared, “We are today seeing a global rebellion of the

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Protests slam racist Rittenhouse acquittal

By Greg Butterfield

“At the end of the day, this country needs to be overthrown. This is pitiful.”
Samaria Rice, mother of Tamir Rice, after the acquittal of Kyle Rittenhouse.

The sentiments expressed by the mother of a 12-year-old Black child slain by Cleveland police in 2014 were echoed across the United States. People took to the streets from coast to coast to condemn the “not guilty” verdict of white supremacist and modern-day Nazi Youth Kyle Rittenhouse in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Nov. 19.

Rittenhouse, then 17, murdered two white Black Lives Matter supporters, Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, and wounded a third, Gaige Grosskreutz. The victims were trying to defend Black protesters from armed white supremacists who descended on Kenosha to “defend

private property” during a righteous uprising after the police shooting of Jacob Blake in August 2020.

Rittenhouse’s false “self-defense” claim was championed by the trial judge, right-wing media and politicians. His acquittal was a foregone conclusion, but no less outrageous because of that.

President Joe Biden won the White House largely on the coattails of the 2020 Black Lives Matter uprising. Yet when the verdict was handed down, Biden’s first public comment was, “The jury system works and we have to abide by it.”

As in many other ways, Biden stabbed those who voted for him in the back as he doesn’t put an end to many parts of Republican Donald Trump’s racist, anti-people program. Rittenhouse had a triumphant photo-op with Trump in Florida Nov. 23.

It will take a fight to force Biden and the Democrats to act.

‘Biden sold us out’

Justin Blake, the uncle of Jacob Blake, was front and center when hundreds took to the streets of **Kenosha** on Nov. 21, chanting “No justice, no peace.”

“President Biden sold us out,” Blake told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. “He betrayed our families, he betrayed the people behind us.”

Protesters contrasted Rittenhouse’s bogus “self-defense” claims with the case of Chrystul Kizer, a local sex-trafficking victim who was charged with murder for killing her abuser when she was 17. Kizer, a young person of color, spent two years in jail until community supporters were able to raise bail, and faces life in prison if convicted.

“The anger that hits all people, Black people, white people, that are concerned about the racism that this country faces, is like — it just stabs you in the chest time and time and time again,” said activist Lorna Revere.

Large protests were held in the nearby cities of **Milwaukee** and **Chicago**.

Protesters in Milwaukee marched Nov. 20 from Red Arrow Park down State Street to the Federal Courthouse. There, Mariah Smith of the Peoples Revolution - Milwaukee explained: “They’ve been saying Black lives don’t matter. But understand that if you stand with Black folks, yours don’t either.”

“We want people to not just be angry, we want people to be organized,” said Omar Flores of the Milwaukee Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

At an emergency response protest in Chicago Nov. 19, shortly after the “not guilty” verdict was handed down, Anthony Huber’s father John Huber told CNN, “We’re still in shock.”

“That guy [Rittenhouse] gets to run free and he’s now a hero, and this is my son right here,” he said, holding a cremation urn and photo of his son. “We lost our son and there’s no justice.”

The next day, hundreds gathered in Chicago’s Federal Plaza, called out by the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Black Lives Matter Chicago and Indivisible Chicago.

“This same system that brutalizes and murders Black, Brown and working class people lets white supremacists walk free,” declared the Chicago Alliance, which is fighting for an elected Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC) to implement community control of the police.

Demand federal charges

Baltimore activists responded to the call for an emergency rush-hour protest Nov. 22, three days after the Rittenhouse “not guilty” verdict, by the Peoples Power Assembly and Socialist Unity Party. Black Lives Matter activists and others gathered at the downtown Federal Courthouse, next to the statue of the first African American Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

The PPA’s Andre Powell opened the rally, raising the demand that federal civil-rights violation charges be filed against Rittenhouse. Powell cited the precedent set after the Rodney King beating verdict, when four white Los Angeles police officers were acquitted by an all-white



jury after their trial was moved to the all-white suburb of Simi Valley. Federal charges were successfully filed and four cops were jailed.

Several community activists also addressed the rally — some of whom were attending their first action since anti-apartheid protests of the 1980s.

On Nov. 23 progressive organizations and activists in **Los Angeles** held an emergency demonstration to denounce the Rittenhouse verdict. The Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice was joined by the Puerto Rican Alliance, ANAKBAYAN and the Socialist Unity Party in targeting the Downtown Federal Building. The Internationalist Group also attended.

Protesters demanded Biden force the Department of Justice to bring federal charges against Rittenhouse and ensure that the three murderers of Ahmaud Arbery, in the then-ongoing trial in Georgia, be convicted. All organizations blasted the racist judge in Kenosha and the institutional racism of the capitalist system.

Speakers also demanded charges be brought against Rusten Sheskey, the cop who shot Jacob Blake in Kenosha — the police violence that sparked the protest for Black lives where Rittenhouse committed multiple murders. They blasted the Biden administration for the Justice Department’s decision to not bring charges against Sheskey.

About 300 pieces of literature with the facts of the case and demands of the Socialist Unity Party were distributed at the action.

‘Throw Rittenhouse in jail’

One hundred protesters gathered at the Colorado Capitol in **Denver** after the verdict Nov. 19. “We took the streets and marched on 16th Street Mall and Larimer Square, rather uneventfully,” reported Denver Communists.

“The air was filled with chants familiar to the movement, like ‘No cops, no KKK, no fascist USA’ and ‘Cops and klan go hand in hand!’ But the crowd favorite was simply ‘Fuck Kyle Rittenhouse,’ which made it clear to passersby why we were out there.”

“The march almost made it back to the Capitol without incident. Then a hostile driver slowly advanced his pickup truck into the back of the crowd, causing a confrontation that prompted police intervention. Cops forced us off the street and ended up violently arresting three people for obstructing traffic.”

Fifty people rallied at **New Orleans** City Hall Nov. 21 at an action organized by Freedom Road Socialist Organization - New Orleans, the Communist Party of Louisiana, the Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition and New Orleans for Community Oversight of Police (NOCOP).

“How is it that Kyle Rittenhouse got months and months and months of airplay? This is a recruitment strategy on the part of the fascist



SLL PHOTO: SCOTT SCHEFFER

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oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter.”

Did CIA try to poison Malcolm X?

Things happened to Malcolm X during the last year of his short life that were beyond the reach of any NOI member. In July 1964, Malcolm nearly died of food poisoning in Cairo and had to have his stomach pumped.

No one else eating with Malcolm fell ill. The CIA’s fingerprints are all over this attempted rubout. The world’s biggest terrorist network had its own poison department.

Its head was Sidney Gottlieb, who tried to kill Fidel Castro with toxins. Gottlieb flew to Congo in 1960 and delivered a poison kit to CIA station boss Larry Devlin. The intended victim was Patrice Lumumba, the first leader of the Democratic Republic of Congo. President Eisenhower authorized Lumumba’s assassination.

Although the CIA wasn’t able to poison Lumumba, the beloved African leader was murdered on Jan. 17, 1961.

Malcolm X spent months in Africa pointing out the oppression of Black people in the United States. He was a one-person truth squad that U.S. embassies couldn’t answer. With the support of African governments, Malcolm sought to present these violations of human rights to the United Nations.

Like Che Guevara, the Black leader visited Gaza and expressed his solidarity with the Palestinian people. Malcolm met with Che when he spoke at the United Nations in 1964.

Malcolm X was the only prominent Black leader in the United States to denounce the mass lynching of the followers of the slain Patrice Lumumba. Belgian paratroopers and white mercenaries attacked Kisan-gani, then called Stanleyville, in

November 1964, killing and raping thousands of Africans. President Lyndon Johnson supplied C-430 Hercules planes to transport these terrorists.

On Feb. 9, 1965, 12 days before he was assassinated, Malcolm X was stopped at the Orly airport in Paris and deported from France. Malcolm had spoken in France before without incident. Many people thought that President Charles de Gaulle feared Malcolm X would be assassinated on French soil and didn’t want to be blamed for it.

The Pentagon had special reasons to silence Malcolm X. In 1965 and 1966, one fifth of all U.S. combat deaths in Vietnam were Black soldiers and marines.

Racist officers forced Black GIs to carry out the most dangerous tasks. Malcolm’s friend, Muhammad Ali, risked going to prison because he refused to kill Vietnamese people.

The military brass must have feared Malcolm X leading a draft resistance campaign that would eventually find support not only from the Black community but also from Asian, Indigenous, Latinx and poor white people as well.

Malcolm’s assassination was a tragedy for all working and oppressed people. Like Che Guevara, who was also murdered, Malcolm X became an inspiration for everyone struggling against capitalism and racism.

The exoneration of Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam demands an investigation into who were Mujahid Abdul Halim’s fellow assassins and who allowed the murder to happen. The leading suspect is the U.S. government.

If the capitalist government refuses to investigate itself, the people must find the truth by any means necessary. [Solidarity symbol]

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NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING 2021: ‘Don’t give up. We can fight!’



Talk given by Mahtowin Munro, the co-leader of United American Indians of New England, at the 52nd National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Nov. 25, 2021.

PHOTO: CHUCK ROSINA

So much has happened in the past year.

We lost our co-leader Moonanum James back in December, and dear Bert Waters back in August. We have lost thousands upon thousands of Indigenous relations to COVID-19. Many of us have been out on the streets marching against white supremacy. White supremacists are still walking free while Indigenous, Black and Brown people continue to die.

But Indigenous struggles never die. They can ebb and flow, though. Currently, we are in a time of Indigenous resurgence with things happening on so many fronts.

I hear a lot of people talk about reconciliation. Reconciliation is when you try to repair an existing relationship, like when you go to marriage counseling to work things out. I don’t feel like we have ever had enough of a good relationship with settlers to think that something that has been so ugly can be reconciled or repaired. For example, can the damage done by Residential Schools ever actually be repaired?

Not schools, internment camps

Not just on September 30 — Orange Shirt Day — but every day, how can we stop thinking about and mourning for the Indigenous children in Canada and the U.S. that were forced into internment camps called Indian residential schools or boarding schools. (People say they should not even be called schools because of what happened there.)

Hundreds of these schools were run for decades by governments and missionaries that made it their mission to “kill the Indian to save the child,” all too often abusing or killing the child in the process. Thousands of the children died at these institutions, from tuberculosis, from medical experiments including starvation, from abuse, from broken hearts. All of them were scarred.

In Canada, some of the school grounds have been searched this year, and the remains of more than 7,000 children have been found. More than 7,000 children buried in unmarked graves! How can that be reconciled? How can you possibly make amends to the Indigenous communities that lost their children?

And there are many more places left to search. The residential school survivors had long said that there were mass graves at the residential

schools, but the government took no action.

Here in the U.S., the Interior Department has now said that they are going to try to find out how many children lie in graves at the boarding schools, and every child they find, and every child whose remains have already been found, needs to be brought home to their families and tribal communities. We cannot rest until this happens. Bring the children home!

Residential schools are not just a thing of the past. Indigenous children continue to be put into residential schools in some parts of Latin America, often run by missionaries. Adivasi tribal children in India are also frequently forced to attend residential schools where they too are stripped of their cultural and familial ties.

The residential schools in the U.S. and Canada may be closed, but our Indigenous children are instead disproportionately placed into foster care. Evangelicals and right-wing organizations like the Goldwater Institute have been leading the charge to get rid of the Indian Child Welfare Act that protects our children from being adopted out of their own communities. These groups want to push us back to the 1960s, when at least a third of Native children were stolen from their families and put into white homes, losing their tribal connections and cultures.

A third of all Native children stolen from their families. How can that be reconciled?

Land back and self-determination

We do not need empty words of reconciliation or apologies. It is too late for that. What we need is land back and reparations. And when I say “land back,” I mean land back! Give the land back to Indigenous people! What we need is a brand new way of thinking and be able to move properly into the future. Native self-determination, land back, decolonization and Black liberation are the only way forward!

Land back is not a new concept that someone recently invented. Our ancestors always taught us to demand the return of our lands. The land and water are in our blood and bones, part of our bodies, and we have never forgotten that. As a starting point, return the national parks and state-held lands to the Native nations, so that Indigenous people can be free

to caretake the land properly.

And all these months into the Biden administration, the Mashpee still have not had their land trust issues resolved by the Interior Department. So we say to

President Biden: Resolve Mashpee’s land trust issues and respect the sovereignty of all Native nations!

Year after year, we stand on this hill and demand an end to the colonial borders, that ICE be abolished, and that Customs and Border Patrol stop detaining undocumented immigrants. We think not only of the Native nations whose homelands have been divided by the arbitrary settler-colonial border, but also of the many thousands of Indigenous people impacted by the U.S. policies that have led them to flee their home countries in Mexico, El Salvador and elsewhere, and of our Haitian and many other relatives who have been attacked and rounded up and abused by border control. As always, we say, “No one is illegal on stolen land!”

This year we will also talk again about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S). Biden says he cares about MMIWG2S, but then why will he not shut down pipelines and turn his back on the energy industry? It is well-known that the man camps that these pipelines bring with them are a major factor in MMIWG2S, yet his administration does not stop these projects.

Whether Republicans or Democrats, Conservatives or Liberals, the politicians uphold colonial rule and work hand in glove with energy corporations. They engage in intense, heavily militarized police repression against pipeline resisters. Divest from all these corporations and the banks that are funding these projects!

From Line 3 to Wet’suwet’en

Many of you may have heard of Line 3 in Minnesota; some of you even went out there to join the frontlines. Hundreds of water protectors are currently facing criminal charges in Minnesota for standing in defense of the water, the climate and the treaty rights of the Anishinaabeg people. They put their bodies on the line to stop Enbridge’s Line 3 pipeline, a massive tar sands project that threatens the state’s lakes, rivers, aquifers and wild rice beds.

Police forces — funded by Enbridge — responded to this massive movement with surveillance, rubber bullets, harassment, “pain compliance” and trumped-up charges, including felony charges. In this time of climate catastrophe, governments must listen to water pro-

tectors instead of criminalizing and prosecuting them. Even as the oil is now flowing through Line 3, the fight is not over. Please do what you can to support this struggle and all those arrested.

You may not have heard about Line 5, which is opposed by all the tribes in Michigan. Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline transports 22 million gallons of crude oil and natural gas liquids from Superior, Wisconsin, through Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, under the Straits of Mackinac, and down to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario. Originally built in 1953, this aging line has significantly deteriorated over the course of the last several decades and poses catastrophic risks to the tribal lands and other areas that it cuts through.

Two parts of Line 5 are particularly concerning: a portion that traverses the Bad River Reservation in Wisconsin and another five-mile stretch that runs under the Straits of Mackinac through the Great Lakes. Line 5 puts the region’s wildlife, wetlands and people at risk.

You also may not have heard about Thacker Pass in Nevada, where the Paiute, Shoshone and others are trying to stop a lithium mine that is situated on land where an 1865 massacre took place. The construction is scheduled to begin early next year at what would be the largest lithium mine in the U.S. and the biggest open pit lithium mine in the world.

We raise our voices today in solidarity with the Wet’suwet’en struggle in so-called British Columbia to stop the Coastal Gaslink project from going through their lands. Last week, there was an unprecedented cascade of climate events in the province, with flooding, mudslides and communities cut off from food deliveries. Despite this, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) made it a priority to move in and arrest unarmed Wet’suwet’en elders, leaders and other land defenders as well as journalists who were at blockades on unceded lands. Wet’suwet’en strong!

On Vancouver Island, more than a thousand people have been arrested for trying to defend the old growth trees at Fairy Creek.

Secwepemc tiny houses warriors continue their fierce resistance to Kinder Morgan’s Transmountain pipeline, and they continue to be harassed and sometimes arrested by the RCMP.

In eastern Canada, violent settlers and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans continue to harass Mi’kmaq fishers who are exercising their right to trap lobsters.

U.S. intervention and multinational corporations continue to wreak havoc in many countries. Indigenous people are being displaced and killed in Colombia, Mexico and other countries for trying to stop mining and megadam projects. In Bolivia, Indigenous people are forced to continue to resist the efforts of the U.S. to overthrow their government and reinstall an anti-Indigenous puppet government.

Capitalism vs. climate justice

I want to say that individual actions are not going to save us when corporations and the U.S. military account for 70% of the world’s pollution. Promoting a narrative of individual re-

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

sponsibility is not going to save us. Recycling and REDD and carbon offsets are not going to save us.

Hoping that capitalism will get kinder will not save us. The Green New Deal is not enough to save us. Only by listening to Indigenous people and dismantling the systems that allowed climate collapse to happen in the first place will we be able to save the planet.

Indigenous peoples have always been caretakers of the land, water and the life therein, despite intense efforts of settler governments to stop us from doing so. For generations, Indigenous people have been warning about the climate crisis.

It is not too late to achieve some climate justice on this planet, but Indigenous voices must be acknowledged and centered.

One of many ways that people are working to center Indigenous voices is through education and legislation. We have been successful in getting Indigenous Peoples Day resolutions passed in many cities and towns, including Boston this past fall.

Here in Massachusetts, we have a MA Indigenous Agenda that is supporting five bills: a bill to ban the use of Native mascots in public schools, a bill to redesign the racist state flag and seal, legislation to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day statewide instead of Columbus Day, an education bill and a bill to protect Native heritage. There's a lot you can do to help us get those bills out of committee. Please go to MAIndigenousAgenda.org for more information.

I end by returning to the concept of Land Back, something on the lips of many Indigenous people. Treaties need to be honored. Lands, including the sacred Black Hills and many more, need to be returned. A proposal, a starting place for the decolonization of our lands and a way to address climate collapse:

First, ensure that no projects can go through any Indigenous nation's land without free, prior and authentic informed consent.

Second, take all of the land that is currently being mismanaged by all settler governments, such as the National Parks or the Amazon rainforest, and let Indigenous nations manage that land. That would mean the restoration of millions of acres of our lands to us. It would also mean the end of the desecration of our sacred sites, such as the Black Hills or Mauna Kea.

Third, cancel the leases, the pipelines, the mining and the corporate contracts and start over.

Finally, since we all live here on this planet together, and since it is the only planet we have, everyone needs to support and listen to Indigenous peoples all over the world who are on the frontlines of dealing with climate change.

I don't want anyone who hears this to give up despite how hard 2021 has been. Our ancestors are behind us every step of the way. We can fight for climate justice. We can do our best to mask up and reduce the spread of this plague. We can end settler colonialism. We can reclaim our lands.

We are not vanishing. We are not conquered. We are stronger than ever.

Watch the complete video of National Day of Mourning 2021 at youtu.be/IrXXA2SaiAs

PELTIER'S MESSAGE OF STRUGGLE: 'We made things better for our people'

Greetings relatives,

Each year as November nears, I try to think back on all that has happened in my world in the past 12 months. And I know that in my world I can only see a very small part of what is happening on the outside. For me, this year somehow seems to carry more weight than usual.

I have passed ever so slowly into the world of the elderly. I am now closer to 80 than to 70. The truth is, I never believed I would live this long. I was just past 31 years old when I came to prison. It was almost half a century ago. My body is now the body of an old man. And it is harder to try to keep myself from being overtaken by sickness or depression or loneliness. They are constant companions here. I keep them at arm's length and I know I cannot ever let them overtake me. If I allow that to happen it will be the end. There is no mercy here. No compassion.

I cannot even imagine what it is like on the outside. I only hear stories and cannot believe half of what I hear.

For me, the best days here at USP Coleman 1 in Florida were the days when we could be outside in the yard and feel the sun. Even though they purposely built the walls so high that we cannot even see the treetops, the occasional bird or butterfly gives a welcome glimpse of our relatives in the natural world, but even that is very rare now.

I know COVID has cost all of us, you and me, in many ways. And I offer my condolences to all of you who have lost loved ones and friends to it.

Here inside the steel and concrete walls it is no different. Constant lockdowns caused by both COVID and violence have made life here even harder than usual. I have not been allowed to paint in 18 months and we are almost always in some form of lockdown.

We are stuck in our cells for days at a time. It is an extremely rare day when we get to go outside to the yard.

I feel moved to try to explain something that has been on my mind for many years. I think maybe it will be helpful if I say the words out loud.

When we started to emerge from the darkness of residential schools, it became clear that we had to go back to try and reclaim what they robbed from us.

And what they robbed us of was the very heart of who we were. Our language, our ways and our connections back home. They wanted us to leave those "schools" thinking like little non-Indians who would just go along with the program and not rock the boat. Even with all the terrible damage they did to so many of us, many of us did survive them. And then we began the process of reclaiming our culture and way of life. I know that process continues to this day.

The following message from Indigenous political prisoner Leonard Peltier was read at the 52nd National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on Nov. 25, 2021.

For more information about his case, visit WholsLeonardPeltier.info.

I am so deeply saddened in hearing the stories of all the children's graves they are finding at residential schools. I guess I was one of the lucky ones who made it home. But the deaths of those children is so sad and outrageous and I am glad the world is finding out at last.

Back then even our home at Turtle Mountain was under threat of government termination. I remember how hard my dad, who was a World War II veteran, fought to save us.

Fighting the outrages

Over the years we fought so many fights to keep our way of life alive and protect the natural world.

After our family was relocated to Portland, Oregon, I took part in the fishing struggles with Billy Frank and his Nisqually people at Frank's Landing. The rednecks were cutting up their nets and attacking both women and men who just wanted to continue to fish as their ancestors did.

And when they shot Hank Adams it was a very dark time and outraged all of us, but we stood strong to protect the Nisqually people. I will always be proud of that.

There were so many outrages back then.

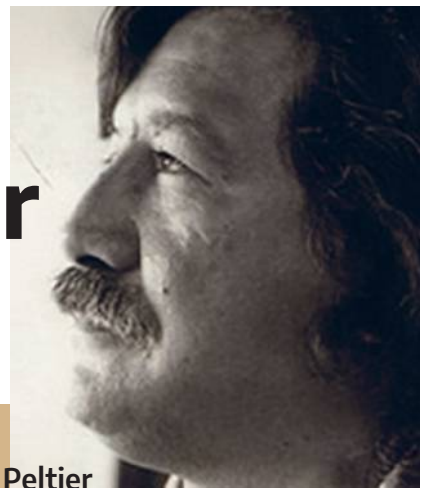
When the land at Fort Lawton in Washington State fell into disuse, we went there and occupied it under old treaty law. That was also a hard time. At one point soldiers were pointing flame throwers at us. But we held our ground and eventually they gave in.

We put our good friend Bernie White Bear in charge and he helped to build the Daybreak Star Center that is still a great asset to Indian people today. Bernie is gone now, as are so many of the others from those days.

Same thing when we took the abandoned Coast Guard Station in Milwaukee with Herb Powless. Our actions might have been unpopular at the time, but they led to a school, alcohol treatment center and employment office. The school is still thriving and is an asset to the Native community and the Milwaukee area. Herb is gone too.

So even though the price we paid was very, very high, we did make things better for our people and we did help to turn things around.

I wonder if many people understand the events in our history and how connected they are. I was born in 1944. The massacre at Wounded Knee was in 1890. That was just 54 years earlier. Both Geronimo and Chief Joseph died only 35 years earlier, in 1909. Think about that. Today, 35 years ago was 1986. Not very long ago at all.



**FREE
LEONARD
PELTIER**

I want to leave you with some positive thoughts.

Retired United States Attorney James Reynolds did an interview with the Huffington Post last week and actually apologized to me for all the wrong they did to me. I hope that it spreads all over the world and I am grateful to him.

I can say that I am heartened and encouraged by the courageous water protectors from Standing Rock to the beautiful manoomin (wild rice) lands of Northern Minnesota.

I am proud of Winona LaDuke and her people's work to protect those beautiful lands and lakes and her work to offer alternatives to fossil fuels.

Using hemp could fix so many things. It is not something we can fix in a year or 10 years but it is something that all reasonable people should understand.

We cannot poison the water that sustains us. All of us. Not just Native and First Nations people, but all people. We have that in common. People should understand, we are trying to protect our homes and our natural lands. Water IS life.

And I am deeply grateful for the courage and vision of Deb Haaland, the new secretary of the Interior Department. I know she went to Alcatraz this week. That is an acknowledgment that what we did was right and honorable. I was not at Alcatraz, but those of us, women and men, who stood up in those days were right. And in other parts of the country we formed our own branches of United Indians of All Tribes. So their efforts led to others joining in.

I heard that Deb Haaland said that the day has come when Indians no longer have to protest to be heard by the U.S. government. That is music to my old ears.

Our people were, and many still are, suffering.

Anyone of any race would do the same things to stop the sufferings of their people.

I wish all of you good health and happiness in all you do. You are in my prayers and I am grateful to all of you who have supported me or will support me going forward.

I still hold out hope that I can make it home to Turtle Mountain while I can still walk out under my own power.

I remain grateful for the gift of life.

**In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Doksha,
Leonard Peltier**

A tribute to Comandante Fidel Castro

On Nov. 25, the fifth anniversary of Fidel Castro's death, his legacy continues — not just in the hearts and minds of Cubans, but around the world. This includes young activists in the U.S.

For many, Fidel conjures up the image of the heroic guerilla fighter. Along with his comrades, he waged a war for Cuba's liberation against seemingly impossible odds. Only 20 comrades survived the actual landing of the Granma in November 1956.

But Fidel heroically pressed on. The July 26th combatants grew larger and larger with the support of the peasants and workers, who joined its ranks. In 1959, they were victorious in driving the brutal dictator Fulgencio Batista from the island.

Internationalist

For others, Fidel represents the best in internationalism and solidarity.

The saying "When Africa called, Cuba answered" refers to the sacrifices Cuba made under Fidel's direction in assisting the freedom struggle in Angola and South Africa. Thousands of Cubans died on African soil fighting apartheid and colonialism. This is why Nelson Mandela affectionately claimed Fidel as a brother.

Africa is not the only continent to remember Comandante Fidel. Everywhere on the globe where people are poor, oppressed or struggling against colonialism and neoliberalism, Fidel is viewed as an implacable friend.

Despite the decades-long U.S. blockade and numerous assassination attempts, Fidel offered to send a team of 1,586 doctors and medical assistants to help the people of the Ninth Ward in New Orleans after the Hurricane Katrina disaster. George W. Bush refused the offer. But this couldn't dissuade Fidel.

Instead, the Henry Reeve Brigade of doctors and nurses became a permanent feature of Cuba's internationalist solidarity. They traveled to the site of disasters around the world to assist, whether in West Africa, bravely fighting Ebola, or in Haiti, Mexico and China, to attend to the victims of earthquakes.

Few people in the U.S. are aware that Henry Reeve, the brigades' namesake, was born in Brooklyn. Reeve served as a drummer in the U.S. Civil War and later died in Cuba's "Ten Year War" against Spanish colonial rule.

Battle of ideas

One of Fidel's contributions that is not spoken about enough was his role as a teacher and ultimately a people's mentor. He was tireless, constantly educating everyday Cubans about critical developments in their homeland and worldwide. Fidel's speeches were the format through which much of this education was delivered.

Fidel extended this role on the world stage. He gave one of the longest speeches ever delivered at a United Nations session — 269 minutes, 4.5 hours. — defending the downtrodden of the world and lambasting neoliberalism.

Young comrades from the Socialist Unity Party selected two speeches by Fidel to read and reflect on his legacy today. Their impressions are strongly informed by their current

visit to Cuba as part of the IFCO/Pas-tors for Peace U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan.

"When an Energetic and Forceful People Cry, Injustice Trembles," Oct. 15, 1976

[Tinyurl.com/3jewn9bj](https://tinyurl.com/3jewn9bj)



SLL PHOTOS:

Images from a display being built at the José Martí monument in Havana's Revolution Square.

Russ McClain: Our caravan visited the Denouncement Memorial as the first stop of our two-week tour. What awaited us was an unflinching display of the brutal atrocities committed by the United States government in its decades-long crusade to overthrow the Cuban Revolution.

I wasn't sure what exactly to expect from the museum, but in hindsight, it provided us with invaluable context that would serve us well for the remainder of our stay.

In Fidel's speech at the memorial service for the victims of the Cubana Airlines plane bombing, he memorialized 57 "healthy, vigorous, enthusiastic, selfless, young" Cubans who were killed; later he went on to detail each terrorist act the U.S. sanctioned against Cuba between April and August of 1976. There is a deep reverence and gratitude for the stolen lives that can be felt in Fidel's words.

I had heard about some of the disgusting war crimes carried out by the U.S. against Cuba as retaliation for daring to purge itself of capitalism and imperialist domination. However, seeing all the horrifying proof of these sins was almost too much to bear. These images will remain with me, and only serve to strengthen my resolve.

Fidel's speech has inspired me. Like the beautiful Cuban athletes aboard the ill-fated plane, I pledge to carry out my revolutionary duties with "modesty and devotion."

"Can the Revolution be Reversed?" Nov. 17, 2005

[Tinyurl.com/b7shphxx](https://tinyurl.com/b7shphxx)

Lars Bertling: My comrade and I were asked to examine one of Fidel Castro's many speeches over the course of our time with the caravan to Cuba. Before our arrival, I had done a bit of research on the country's ever-evolving socialist project and its recent permitment of certain free-market ideas within the existing system. I thought this was interesting — what forces in place prevent Cuba from becoming thoroughly capitalist?

"Can the Revolution Be Reversed?" is the same question Fidel posed over 15 years ago at the University of Havana. It is also the same question many officials seem to be asking today. But it should be noted that a significant portion of this talk is dedicated not to a potential future collapse, but to a storied his-

tory of struggling to both develop and maintain a specific ideological framework, and of the lies and hypocrisy of the U.S. imperialist state.

It is remarkable how little has changed since then. The U.S. military continues to be a global threat to economic democracy, spending inordinate sums of money to prolong the empire for the rich. Mass media within its borders continues to normalize the drums of war as Cuba continues to be a scapegoat for many of its propaganda campaigns. (Let's not forget the false depiction last July of a people hungry for regime change.)

U.S. aggression dressed up as saviorism is a tale as old as time that Castro mocks in his Havana University talk. How moral of the U.S. to try and economically decimate another country so a puppet government that benefits the interests of the wealthy might be installed!

But I don't want to undersell how exemplary Cuba has responded to these ongoing attacks by not mentioning what I've seen in the country itself. Even with their ability to obtain resources abroad stilted, Cubans have managed to produce five vaccine candidates and a vaccination rate of over 90%. A panel led by several queer advocates showed how they were working hard to redefine what makes a family in the official Family Code.

Masks are everywhere, and I have seen a very small police presence in this "authoritarian failed state" — cops in uniform are few and far between, and the only ones I witnessed on the road were our motorcycle escorts whenever we'd travel by bus. I saw one whole person asking people for money, and the homeless I've noticed are all cats and dogs, who are facing action to get them off the streets, into animal shelters, and eventually into caring homes.

Fidel noted the importance of the realistic building of socialism, not steeped in utopian ideals but in what is needed for success. This persists in continuous examination of what is necessary for people in the now. The revolution never ended in Cuba — it is an ongoing process of organizing that is intensive but worthwhile.

The late commander-in-chief did not deny that all things will likely come to an end. He did, however, declare that should the Cuban Revolution fail, it would fail as a result of actions in constructing social-

ism, rather than through an outside instigator like the United States. In our talk with the minister of foreign affairs, he echoed Fidel's sentiment, and also acknowledged that Cuba was not perfect.

Multiple times on our trip, the existence of free-market aspects in the economy was brought up. But how else can the country survive in a global capitalist economy? Both Fidel and the speakers on our trip have stressed the uniqueness in every brand of socialistic building across national lines. What appears strange in the economy of a country dedicated to communist revolution is there to preserve what has already been created.

Cuba still stands and it looks for how to best serve its people. It is a constant adaptation, and I'm pleased to see a government so firm in putting people before profit. In my opinion, that is definitely an example to follow. 🇨🇺

Protests slam racist Rittenhouse acquittal

Continued from page 3

movement," said Joseph Rosenzweig of the Workers Voice Socialist Movement. "They're trying to build their base."

Fight Back News reported: "Demonstrators made it clear that vigilantes have no place in New Orleans. They carried an immense energy as their chants reverberated into the streets of downtown New Orleans, shouting, 'No justice, no peace!' and 'Throw Rittenhouse in jail!'"

"The event culminated in a demand for action. NOCOP directed protesters to fight the injustice system right here in the city. They collected signatures on a petition for a Civilian Police Accountability Council, continuing the fight against police crimes."

In **New York City**, protesters shut down the Brooklyn Bridge Nov. 19, while the same night in **Portland, Ore.**, activists clashed with police and forced open the front entrance of the misnamed "Justice Center," the city's main jail.

Actions were also held in **Oakland, San Diego** and many other cities.

With reports from John Parker in Los Angeles and the Struggle-La Lucha Baltimore bureau.

Report from Havana

Fidel Castro Center: A profound experience

Lars Bertling, Russell McClain and Sharon Black, three reporters for Struggle-La Lucha, members of the Socialist Unity Party, and representatives of the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly, are participating in the 31st IFCO- Pastors for Peace U.S.-Cuba Friendship Caravan that arrived in Havana on Nov. 15.

Havana, Nov. 19 — We were honored to be the first delegation to visit the Fidel Castro Ruz Center in Havana. It's important to share a small part of the background on the establishment of this museum and interactive teaching facility.

It was Fidel's wish that there would be no statues, monuments or streets named for him. The "Comandante," as he is affectionately referred to here, knew his importance as a leader and teacher of the Cuban people and the international community. But his emphasis was always on the people.

Statues don't usually pass on ideas. Rather, it is an educated and organized people who do.

It must have been very hard for the Cuban people to abide by his wishes. However, the National Assembly, which is the equivalent of Congress in the U.S. — but much more representative of the people — passed a law that no statues of Fidel could be erected or streets named after him.

So it took a full debate and vote by the Cuban National Assembly to allow this one exemption, the Fidel Castro Ruz Center. And it's wonderful that they did.

The center is a tribute to Cuba's history. A hectare of gardens (about two and a half acres) surrounds the converted home of an aristocrat that was confiscated by the revolution in 1959.

The gardens were developed to reflect Fidel's commitment to nature and ecology.

There is no way to fully describe the beauty of this garden. Plants from the Sierra Maestra mountains are grown in a vertical garden with an exquisite waterfall, representing the mountains where the guerrilla army was based.

Guides explained that the modern bronze sculpture sitting near the center of the garden represented a species of tree that bends in the

hurricanes. Raul Castro, Fidel's brother and also a leader of the revolution, described the tree as representing Fidel's ability to weather storms.

While we surveyed the garden, a white dove flew to the top of the bronze statue and stayed until a light rain began.

Our tour of the inside was a profound experience of Fidel's history starting as a boy until his death. It illustrated all the important aspects of Cuban history.

Nothing was left out, starting with a display of the jeep that Fidel used before he entered Havana in January 1959, dressed in the clothes he wore in the mountains. Our Cuban guide, a young Afro-Cuban, was profoundly knowledgeable.

Inclusion of children, people with disabilities

What struck us was the Center's thoughtful accessibility to children and those with disabilities of all kinds.

Every exhibit, especially those that were interactive, allowed children and those using wheelchairs to access them through touch and voice, including QR codes.

This was true in the library area and also outside in the garden.

The use of digital technology, art, film, and sound was astounding. For instance, the library section featured facsimiles of books that could



Fidel Castro, arm raised, entering Havana in January 1959.

be scanned to reveal their contents. Throughout parts of the center you could view modern sculptures and displays. Special rooms were dedicated to audiovisual films and displays.

The detailed preservation of history and excellence in execution reflect the love of Fidel and the pride that Cuban people have in their history of resistance to imperialist domination.

Included in these displays is the tremendous international support carried out by Cuba from Angola to Vietnam.

The accessibility of the museum is a testament to the Cubans' dedication to the next generation, and this

is also shown in the detailed preservation of history. The center contains more details than you could imagine, presented in a digestible way. Visiting is like reading several books on Cuban history.

We were unable to take photographs, as is common in museums that contain delicate displays, but especially because the Cubans do not want anyone to profit from or sell the images. Nevertheless, the Cubans plan to eventually create a special website for the center that will be shared internationally.

Our delegation spent close to four hours at the center and there was not a single person who was not deeply moved. 📷

'My Gift to Cuba' Baltimore socialists' contribution

D.C. anti-imperialists' solidarity with Cuba

Continued from page 8

and the COVID-19 crisis, activists standing in solidarity with the Cuban Revolution should expect the U.S. government to continue its suffocating economic warfare and destabilization tactics.

It's incumbent upon anti-imperialist activists in the U.S. to do our part to make sure these aggressions continue to fail. This includes educating comrades who have strayed away from militant solidarity with socialist movements in the Third World or been led astray by constant mass media propaganda.

Political education and media literacy are key to furthering the global revolution against all forms of neo-colonialism, white supremacy, and capitalist exploitation. As revolutionary freedom fighter Assata Shakur once said: "The people in the U.S. have to struggle against a system of organized lies." 📷



SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

On Nov. 20, the Friendship Caravan delegates and their hosts held a festival of experience called "My Gift to Cuba," with contributions from each state participating in the caravan. This was our contribution:

We are from Baltimore, Maryland, where the police murder of Freddie Gray sparked a rebellion of the people of our city who were fed up with racist police terror.

Our delegation represents the

Peoples Power Assembly, which does community work, including setting up weekly free food distributions because our government won't feed the people, and also a "saving lives campaign" to demand vaccines for our community.

Among our own organizers, six people contracted COVID-19, four were hospitalized, and six other volunteers died. Only 60% of the people of Baltimore are vaccinated.

We know the Cubans like to say, "We are not perfect." But what we have seen and will take back is heaven to us in comparison to our conditions under capitalism.


We want to add that we are also writers from Struggle-La Lucha and members of the Socialist Unity Party. Our young comrades have a poem they wrote and a t-shirt to present as our gift.

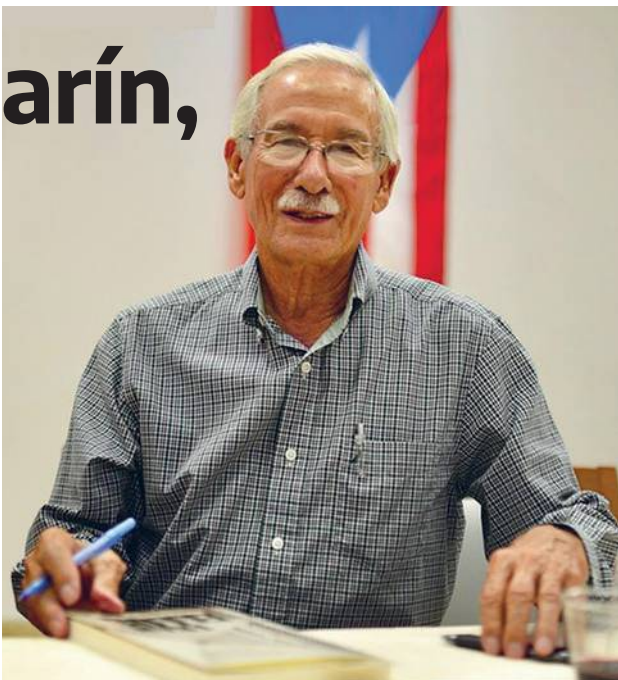
Cuba you've welcomed us
Like an old friend
But soon comes the day
When our time here will end
We'll venture back home
A capitalist hell
But we'll breathe revolution
As did Comrade Fidel
You're a socialist project
That's been under attack.
And we're gonna show you
That we've got you back
Because your existence
Is no far-off dream
It's an ongoing process
Where the people are supreme.
So soon comes the day
When our time here will end.
Love and solidarity —
Until we meet again.
Viva Cuba! 📷

Homenaje a Don Heriberto Marín, insurgente de Jayuya

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Buenos días audiencia,
Muchas veces celebramos la vida y las contribuciones de personas importantes en la lucha de nuestros pueblos cuando ya han fallecido. Pero hoy quisiera homenajear a un héroe viviente de nuestra lucha independentista en Puerto Rico, del Partido Nacionalista, Don Heriberto Marín quien esta semana cumplió 93 años.
Su importancia histórica es haber sido partícipe – quizás el último que queda vivo – de la primera insurrección armada contra el dominio yanqui, en el Grito de Jayuya del 30 de octubre de 1950 donde al llamado del Maestro Albizu Campos se alzaron en armas camaradas del Partido Nacionalista encabezados por Blanca Canales y proclamaron allí la República de Puerto Rico. Otras seis ciudades se unieron al levantamiento. Pero en Jayuya lograron

prevalecer por tres días, izando la bandera puer-
torriqueña – prohibida por la Ley de la Mordaza. EUA declaró la Ley Marcial y envió a la criminal Guardia Nacional para atacarles bombardeando a Jayuya por aire y por tierra.
Después de pasar años en prisión, Don Heriberto ha continuado participando activamente en la lucha libertaria. No hay huelga ni manifestación por la independencia y la justicia para nuestro pueblo, que no esté Don Heriberto. Sus lecciones, a través de su ejemplo, son valiosísimas sobre todo para esas nuevas generaciones. El respeto a quienes no piensan igual, a la búsqueda de una unidad entre el movimiento independentista, el reconocimiento de toda persona luchadora independientemente de su agrupación, son un indispensable tesoro para avanzar hacia la definitiva independencia. 



Don Heriberto Marín

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.



D.C. anti-imperialists stand in solidarity with Cuban Revolution

By Ben Gutman

On Nov. 13, a small group of activists led by the D.C. Metro Coalition in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution gathered in front of the Cuban Embassy on 16th Street Northwest to reaffirm a core revolutionary anti-imperialist demand: an end to the murderous blockade and continuous U.S. interference in Cuban affairs.
Ever since corporate media propagandists bombarded the public with around-the-clock news updates on the overblown, U.S.-cultivated Cuban counterrevolutionary protests in July, many leftists living within the imperial core have gotten caught up in a manufactured spell that aims to drain any militant solidarity with the Cuban people and their revolution.
This increased complacency and inability to critically analyze information coming from a mainstream press in lockstep with U.S. regime change goals, in part, prompted a further emboldened hawkish establishment to attempt a second color revolution within five months in Cuba.

Fortunately, protests scheduled for Nov. 15 and brazenly advertised by the U.S. State Department turned into a massive flop. A network of anti-imperialist solidarity events held in more than 80 cities around the world helped ensure that this act of aggression would become the latest addition to a long list of failed destabilization tactics designed to end more than 60 years of revolutionary socialism 90 miles from the epicenter of global capitalism.
In Washington D.C., several activists from the small rally days earlier returned to the Cuban Embassy on Nov. 15, reinforced by dozens of comrades from D.C.-area anti-imperialist organizations, including Black Alliance for Peace (BAP), Code Pink, the D.C. Metro Communist Party, the D.C. branch of the Party for Socialism & Liberation, the ANSWER Coalition, the Claudia Jones School and Friends of Latin America.
Erica Caines, a BAP Coordinating Committee member, vehemently condemned this most recent manifestation of U.S. interventionism abroad and called on all anti-imperialist leftists to stand in solidarity with the Cuban people.
“As we know, sanctions kill. And while these will be framed as supporting human rights, the 60-plus-year-long blockade and recent Trump and Biden administration crackdowns are war tactics that represent violence against Cuban people, particularly Afro-Cubans,” Caines said.



Activists rally in front of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C., Nov. 15.

PHOTO: BEN GUTMAN

“The Black Alliance for Peace’s Haitian-American community recognizes these signals as part of a long-term concerted attempt to destabilize and delegitimize the Cuban government whose socialist principles and decades-long defiance of U.S. imperialism are unacceptable to the U.S. white supremacist empire.”
In addition to the longstanding economic blockade and the 243 additional punitive measures enacted during the Trump administration, the U.S. government has continued to fund “human rights” organizations and anti-government media outlets through institutions like the National Endowment for Democracy, a CIA front founded by Ronald Reagan in 1983.
The Nov. 15 “Civic March for Change” — the failed anti-socialist protest in Cuba — was planned by organizations being funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), another CIA cutout used to destabilize any country whose government does not bend the knee to U.S. dictates.
Due to the blatant U.S. cultivation, funding and advertisement of the planned Nov. 15 march, the Cuban government denied permission to hold the protest, refusing to allow foreign interference in its affairs. The Biden administration subsequently threatened Cuba with more sanc-

tions for denying its people permission to protest. Ironically, the U.S. government has had no problem violently repressing its own citizens protesting everything from police violence to corporate-led destruction of the environment.
Sean Blackmon, a local organizer with the Stop Police Terror Project D.C., led more than 50 activists in chanting “Cuba sí, bloqueo no” and “Let Cuba live”. Despite chants from across the street of “liar, liar, liar” from a handful of Cuban anti-revolutionaries attempting to drown out the solidarity rally, Blackmon continued the scheduled program with a speech.
“We don’t believe another people should be part of a quote-unquote ‘backyard’ for larger, more powerful and more wealthy nations. We believe in humanity. We are a people of conscience, unlike the U.S. government”, Blackmon said. “If you care about human rights, why would you stop people from eating and getting medicine and being able to send remittances back to their families?”
As Cuba reopens for travel and looks to jumpstart its tourism sector damaged by U.S. sanctions

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